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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,766	12/26/2001	Jeffrey Rodman	199-0032US	5760

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EXAMINER

PWU, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/032,766	<b>Applicant(s)</b> RODMAN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jeffrey C. Pwu	<b>Art Unit</b> 2143	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/8/06, 01/17/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 21-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Detampel, Jr. et al. (US 5,995,608).

Detampel, Jr. et al. teaches claims :

21. A conference endpoint comprising:

- a telephone line interface for coupling said conference endpoint to a telephone line; (102; PSTN)
- a network interface for coupling, said conference endpoint to a computer network; (401; user 0 or user n)
- a microphone for generating near speech signals for transmission over said telephone line, said near speech signals being representative of speech of a near conference participant; (phone; col.1, lines 10-24)
- a speaker for converting to sound remote speech signals received from a remote device over said telephone line (col.1, lines 10-24), said remote speech signals being representative of speech of at least one remote conference participant;

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a data conference initiation module, coupled to said network interface and to said telephone line interface for transmitting a data conference initiation request to a conference server over (101; col.5, line 51) said computer network, for receiving a data conference code generated by said conference server, and for responsively transmitting over said telephone line a data conference invitation to said remote device, said conference invitation including information representative of said data conference code. (col.7, lines 13-24)

22. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein said data conference initiation engine transmits said conference initiation request in response to a predetermined user input. (104)

23. The conference endpoint of claim 21, further comprising a display device coupled to said network interface for displaying visual information received from said conference server.

(col.11, line 32- "FIG. 7 illustrates the variety of conference control interfaces that are provided to the subscriber and to the conference participants in Stage 621 of FIG. 6. Conferees may enter DTMF commands 701 via their telephone keypad, which are conveyed within the audio channel to the bridge server 101 that is servicing the conference. These commands provide control over several in-conference options, many of which are supported by prior art conferencing systems. In the preferred embodiment, these commands include operator recall, participant count, conference lock/unlock, access to an outside line, and disconnect addressed lines. When a command by a subscriber or participant is entered, the bridge server 101 conveys a conference status change message to the CACS Bridge Manager module 310 via BAPI 303. This status change is passed along to the subscriber interface 306 and then to the HTML/mail server 108, which provides the

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status change information to any World Wide Web (WWW) 702 users whose browsers may be registered for this information. Subscribers can issue similar commands via the WWW interface 702, which commands are passed to the bridge 101 via the HTML/mail server 108, the subscriber interface 306, and BAPI 303. Non-subscriber participants can view conference status information on a similar WWW 702 interface on which command features (which are restricted to the subscriber) are disabled. Additionally, the system supports electronic mail 703 conference initiation, whereby a specially formatted text message is parsed within the HTML/mail server 108 to extract a conferee list. When this information is received, the subscriber interface 306 instructs the call router 302 to connect the conferees together with the subscriber by initiating the appropriate SS7 routing messages”)

24. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured to transmit a conference join request to said conference server over said computer network responsive to a received conference invitation. (col.10, lines 37-52)

25. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein said conference invitation comprises a string of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) tones. (701)

26. The conference endpoint of claim 21, further comprising a web browser for displaying text and graphical information received from said conference server. (col.11, line 32-64)

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27. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured for transmitting over said computer network a data conference invitation to said remote device. (col.10, lines 37-52)

28. A method for initiating and managing a data conference from a near conference endpoint, comprising:  
establishing a connection over a telephone line with at least one remote conference endpoint;  
transmitting a data conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network;  
receiving from the conference server a unique data conference code corresponding to said data conference initiation request; generating an audio signal representative of said conference code;  
transmitting said audio signal to said at least one remote conference endpoint over said telephone network. (claim 28 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of generating an audio code comprises generating a string of DTMF tones. (701)

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of transmitting a data conference initiation request is performed in response to a predetermined user input. (col.10, lines 37-52)

31. A method for initiating and managing a data conference at a conference server, the method comprising the steps of receiving a conference initiation request from a conference endpoint over a computer network; generating a conference code in response to said conference initiation

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request; transmitting said conference code to said conference endpoint over the computer network; maintaining a list of data conference participants based on received data conference join requests from one or more conference endpoints; and transmitting conference data to said data conference participants over said computer network. (claim 31 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the step of transmitting conference data comprises transmitting a web page. (col.11, line 32-64)

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said data is representative of a document. (col.8, lines 2-3)

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said data is representative of a presentation slide. (col.8, lines 2-13)

35. A machine readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference utilizing electronic means, the method steps comprising: transmitting a conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network; receiving a conference code from said conference server over said computer network in response to said conference initiation request; generating an audio signal representative of said conference code; and transmitting said audio signal to at least one conference endpoint over a telephone line. (claim 35 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)



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36. A machine readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program: being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference utilizing electronic means, the method steps comprising: receiving an audio signal representative of a conference code from at least one conference endpoint over a telephone line; and transmitting a conference join request including said conference code to a conference server over a computer network in response to receiving said audio signal. (claim 36 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

37. A conference endpoint comprising:

a telephone line interface for coupling the conference endpoint to a telephone line;

a network interface for coupling the conference endpoint to a computer network;

a microphone for generating near speech signals for transmission over the telephone line, the near speech signals being representative of speech of a near conference participant;

a speaker box converting to sound remote speech signals received from a remote device over the telephone line, the remote speech signals being representative of speech of at least one remote conference participant; and a data conference initiation module coupled to the network interface and the telephone line interface and configured to receive over the telephone line interface from a remote conference endpoint a conference invitation including information representative of a data conference code and further configured to transmit a conference join request to a conference server over the computer network in response to the received conference invitation. (claim 37 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)



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38. The conference endpoint of claim 37 further comprising a display device coupled to the network interface for displaying visual information received from the conference server. (col.11, line 32-64)

39. The conference endpoint of claim 37 wherein the conference invitation comprises a string of dual tone multi-frequency (DTMF) tones. (701)

40. The conference endpoint of claim 37 further comprising a web browser for displaying text and graphical information received from the conference server. (col.11, line 32-64)

41. The conference endpoint of claim 37, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured for receiving over said computer network a data conference invitation from the remote conference endpoint. (col.10, lines 37-52)

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey C. Pwu whose telephone number is 571-272-6798. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



4/11/06

**JEFFREY PWU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**